

Yemen: Marib district profiles

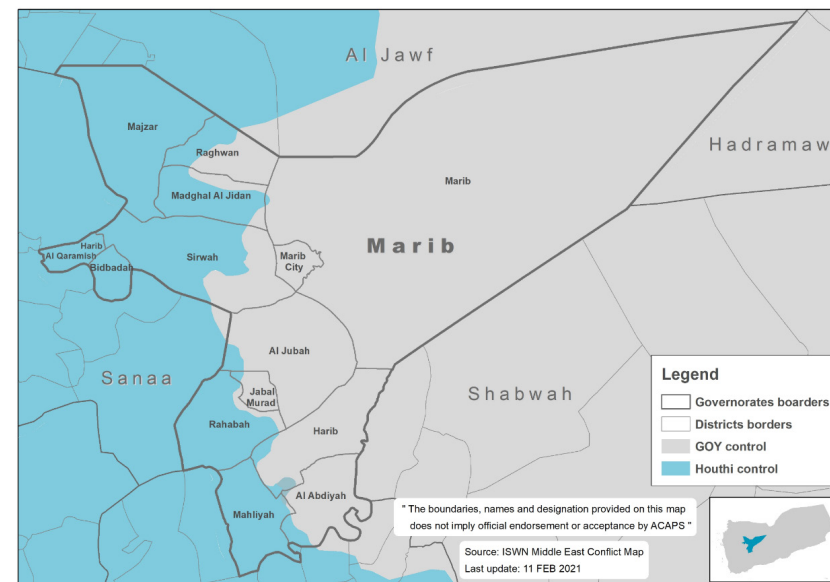
Understanding humanitarian needs

CRISIS OVERVIEW

Marib is a centrally located governorate that was a pocket of relative stability from 2015 to 2019. However, it saw increasing levels of conflict when the Houthis launched a new offensive towards Al Jawf Governorate and Majzar district in Marib on 18 January 2020. Marib holds important natural resources (oil and gas). It is also the last stronghold of the IRG in the north of the country and hosts around 800,000 Internally Displaced People (IDPs), the largest number in Yemen. As of 11 February 2021, the Houthis control Majzar, Harib Al Qaramish, Bidbidah and Mahliyah districts and parts of Rahabah, Raghwan, Sirwah and Madghal. Marib city and Marib Al Wadi, which host 70% of the IDPs in the governorate, is still under the IRG control along with Al Jubah, Jabal Murad Al Abdiah and Harib districts (AP 14/02/2021; Sana'a Center 05/09/2020).

Flash flooding and conflict caused widespread displacement in Marib in the past 12 months. Over 106,500 people were displaced to and within Marib governorate between January 2020 and January 2021. Conflict intensified again on 9 February 2021 as the Houthi announced a new offensive towards Marib city. Fighting is concentrated in the Al Mukhaddarah mountain range to the south of Al Jawf junction towards Marib city, and in Sirwah district. Hundreds of IDPs living in settlements sites in Sirwah have been forced to flee eastward to Marib City (MEMO 13/11/2020; ISWN News 10/02/2021; CIMP daily update 17/02/2020; IOM 16/02/2021; AP 14/02/2021).

The conflict poses particular risks for IDPs who are forced to move from one district to another looking for safety. IDPs are in need of shelter, WASH and protection assistance. In this report, we will look in depth at six districts in Marib governorate – Majzar, Madghal, Sirwah, Raghwan, Rahabah and Al Jubah – to understand the increasing humanitarian needs as IDPs continue to arrive daily, putting pressure on host community, public services and stretching the capacity of humanitarian organisations to respond.



Sources: IWN - Islamic World News

KEY PRIORITIES AND FIGURES

+160,000

People in need and newly displaced (IOM 14/02/2021).

Increased shelter needs & non food items

60% of new IDPs are settling in extremely overcrowded settlements or informal settlements with inadequate services (IOM 14/02/2021).

High WASH Needs

70% IDP HHs lack regular access to safe water and 90% of new arrivals lack access to adequate latrines (IOM 14/02/2021).

Protection concerns

42% of IDP sites are settled on private land, with no formal land agreement which puts them at risk of eviction threats, intimidation and harassment. Shelling in the governorate was responsible for c71% of civilian casualties and impacted on people's houses and land. IDPs sites were also impacted in Majzar and Sirwah (CIMP 15/02/2021).

4,500

Migrants are estimated to be stranded, many of whom are unable to access basic services and are in dire need of food, shelter, health and protection assist

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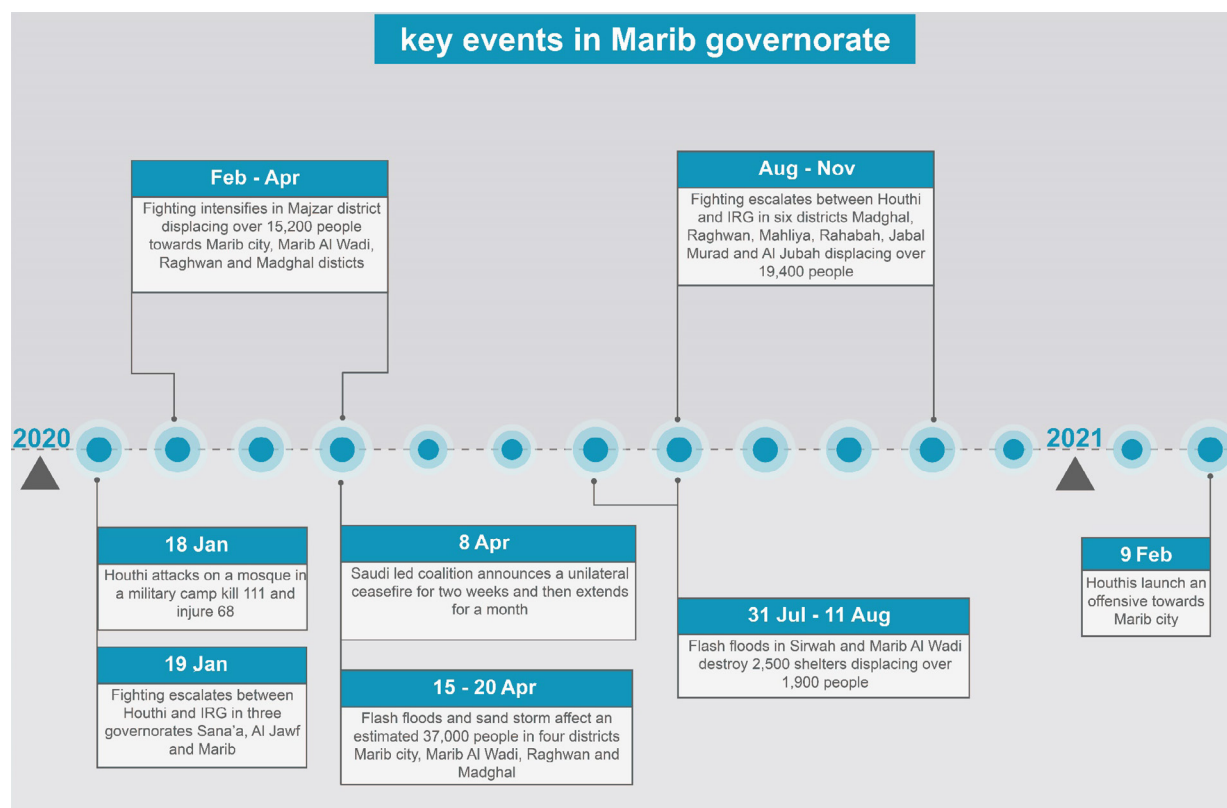
HUMANITARIAN CONSTRAINTS:

Humanitarian access in northern governorates continues to be severely impacted. While the humanitarian space in the south is notably more open, insecurity along frontlines is increasingly impacting delivery of humanitarian assistance to Marib. Humanitarian access to some of the most vulnerable communities near to conflict points remains restricted or inaccessible which makes it difficult to understand the needs of the most vulnerable. Most responders are unable to safely access parts of Al Jawf as well Majzar and Madghal districts. Response initiatives are ongoing, but the number of new IDP arrivals exceeds current capacity (IOM 03/11/2020)

ANTICIPATED SCOPE AND SCALE:

The vast majority of those displaced have no option but to shelter in extremely overcrowded settlements in Marib city and surrounding areas where they lack the most basic services needed to survive and face an the risk of diseases like cholera or COVID-19. If frontlines advance further towards Marib city, we could see an additional 385,000 people displaced into Eastern Marib and Hadramawt in the coming months. Hadramawt has a vast desert and extremely limited humanitarian services (IOM 20/11/2020; IOM 01/12/2020; OCHA 18/02/2020; UNFPA 17/10/2020).

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS



Sources: (AP 14/02/2021; DTM core data set; OCHA 13/08/2020; ACAPS 23/04/20)



KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF MARIB DISTRICTS

KEY INDICATORS	MAJZAR	MADGHAL	RAGHWAN	SIRWAH	AL-JUBAH	RAHABAH
Estimated population including displaced people (CSO projection 2020)	26,900	49,600	32,600	32,000	48,800	14,500
Estimated population in need as % of total population	40%	85%	25%	85%	25%	25%
Total number of displaced people Between Jan- Dec 2020 (DTM core data set)	106 households (636 individuals)	678 households (4,068 individuals)	1,070 households (6,420 individuals)	475 households (2,850 individuals)	502 households (3,012 individuals)	174 households (1,044 individuals)
Civilian casualties Jan-Dec 2020 (CIMP core data set accessed 31/12/2020)	4 civilian casualties including 2 children	14 civilian casualties including five children and one woman	9 civilian casualties with no reports for women or children	4 civilian casualties of whom 3 children and one woman	8 civilian casualties including 3 women	2 civilian casualties with no reports for women or children
Top priorities per district	Majzar is not accessible and information needs are not clear	Major needs reported are access to WASH and shelter	Major needs reported are access to WASH, food and shelter	Major needs reported are access to water, shelter and protection	Major needs in shelter, non-food items, WASH and shelter.	Major needs are WASH, food, shelter, non-food items and protection
Cholera cases Jan-Dec 2020	6	8	No reported cases	17	44	No reported cases
Response capacity	2 national organisations are active on the ground	3 organisations on the ground (1 UN agency/2 national organisations)	5 organisations on the ground (3 national and 2 international)	5 organisations on the ground (1 UN agencies / 6 national)	3 national organisations on the ground	1 national organisation on the ground
Population in IPC 3 Projections 2020	3,000 (11% of the total population)	8,500 (17% of the total population)	2,500 (7.6% of the total population)	16,000 (50% of the total population)	9,000 (18% of the total population)	5,000 (34% of the total population)
Population in IPC 4 Projections 2020	13,000 (48% of the total population)	2,500 (5% of the total population)	5,000 (15% of the population)	8,000 (25% of the total population)	2,000 (4% of the total population)	1,500 (10% of the total population)
Humanitarian Access/ frontlines	Frontline Not accessible	Frontline Accessible according to the access data but due to the increased fighting the district is likely hard to reach	Frontline Accessible according to the access data but due to the increased fighting the district is likely hard to reach	Frontline Accessible according to the access data but due to the increased fighting the district is likely hard to reach	Accessible	Frontline Accessible according to the access data but due to the increased fighting the district is likely to be hard to reach

Governorate Overview

Marib governorate has 14 districts and is rich in natural resources and fertile agricultural land. Since the start of the conflict in 2015, the ability of local tribes to mobilise has allowed them to create a united front against the Houthis. Most Marib districts were relatively safe until the escalation of conflict in 2020, apart from Sirwah district which has been a frontline since 2015 (Sana'a Center 05/09/2020).

Since the start of the conflict in Yemen in 2015, Marib governorate has received more than 800,000 displaced people between 2015 and 2019 – on top of its estimated local population of 300,000 in 2015.

In January 2020, an escalation of fighting on the outskirts of Marib, Al Jawf and Sana'a governorates led to a surge in displacement, with many of those being displaced for the second or third time (IOM 22/05/2020). This has resulted in a significant increase in humanitarian needs for displaced people (and host communities): safe shelter, clean water, sanitation, and food support (IOM 10/06/2020; IOM 05/10/2020). Marib city also hosts approximately 4,500 stranded migrants, most of whom have been living in the city for a minimum of seven months (IOM 30/07/2020; IOM 15/02/2021).

Since January 2020, 106,449 new displacements to and within the governorate have been recorded, most notably towards Marib city and Marib Al Wadi which host almost 70% of IDPs in the governorate. Raghwan and Madghal districts host around 9% of all IDPs (ECFR 06/2018; Protection Cluster 04/10/2020). The actual number of IDPs is likely to be much higher since people have sought refuge with host communities, which makes them difficult to count (IOM 20/11/2020; IOM 15/02/2021; OCHA 18/02/2020).

According to local authorities, there are currently 140 displacement sites in Marib governorate. Since January 2020, at least 23 sites on the frontlines have been evacuated due to conflict and 13 new sites were established in Sirwah and Al Jubah, many lacking basic services (IOM 10/06/2020; UNFPA 17/10/2020). New arrivals are settling into places with limited water, sanitation, and health facilities (IOM 03/11/2020; IOM 10/06/2020).

Floods impacted Marib city, Sirwah, Al Wadi, and Madghal districts in April, July, and August 2020, affecting around 17,000 families and over 3,500 IDP shelters (IOM 10/06/2020).

The majority of IDPs are residing in makeshift shelters in displacement sites or informal settlements and 70% need shelter support. There are very limited services available and service gaps are widening (IOM 20/11/2020; IOM 03/11/2020; IOM 10/06/2020).

The local education infrastructure has not kept pace with the IDP influx, and many schools established during the conflict have been converted into temporary accommodation for

IDPs. Schools that are still operating lack basic supplies, such as books, equipment, and teachers (Sana'a Center 05/09/2020).

The extent to which people are able to access healthcare is unclear, and this is partly a result of conflicting information. Some hospitals are providing services and medicine free of charge. However, people report being unable to visit hospitals as they cannot pay for healthcare. Detailed information is lacking. However, given the increasing levels of displacement within and between Marib's districts it is likely that the demand for healthcare outstrips current capacity (ACAPS discussion with operational actors 12/02/2020).

Food insecurity is high in areas affected by fighting. Conflict restricts access for humanitarian food assistance programmes and makes it difficult for people to access markets.

Protection concerns have been on the rise since the conflict escalated in the beginning of 2020, causing widespread harm and damage to civilian homes and infrastructure. 78% of IDPs lack some form of civil documentation, which makes it difficult to travel. Child marriage is increasing as it is a source of income and/ or a cost reduction for a family (as the cost of feeding is transferred to another household)(Protection Cluster 10/2020; ACAPS discussion with operational actors February 2021).

The deteriorating security situation continues to restrict humanitarian access and humanitarian organisations are unable to safely access areas in Majzar, Madghal Rahabah, Mahliyah and Al Abdiyah districts. Approximately 15 local and international humanitarian organisations are present in Marib, but most do not have sufficient financial and human resources to provide continuous support (IOM 20/11/2020; Sana'a Center 06/11/2020).

VULNERABLE GROUPS AFFECTED:

People in hard to reach areas:

Through 2020 an estimated 6,900 households (41,000 individuals) resided in dispersed settlements detached from a city or a village and away from services. These are the most vulnerable who likely did not have the physical or financial means to leave their homes. Some of them were located in caves in the mountain. Others were located in the desert (OCHA 12 March 2020; ECHO, 11 March 2020; DTM core data set). Reports indicate that some of the IDP residing in dispersed settlements have moved to closer displacement sites in the city.

Female headed households:

There is a high proportion of female-headed households among the displaced population – some living with other families, others living alone. This high proportion is usually because

the male household head is either fighting on the battlefield, wounded, or dead, leaving women and children to flee dangerous areas alone. Unaccompanied female-headed households are especially vulnerable to harassment. Unaccompanied women in IDP sites often have to depend on male neighbours to access water or food distributions – as it is not safe for them to access these alone – increasing their risk of dependency and exploitation. Because of over-crowded shelter conditions, some women sleep outside in the open air (ACAPS discussions with operational actors 03/2020).

Children:

Particularly in IDP sites, children face grave risks including exploitation and abuse. Child heads of households are left with the difficult responsibility of caring for their family members, which often puts them at increased risk of exploitation and abuse, as well as psychological distress. Many are also at risk of exclusion from humanitarian assistance as they are not registered in the category of people who are responsible for a family and they don't have ID cards (Protection cluster January 2021).

People with disability:

Data on the number of people living with a disability, either pre-existing or as a result of conflict, is not available. However, people living with disabilities are present in all IDP sites. There are currently no disability focused response initiatives in the governorate. Some people with disability are often forced to rent accommodation, which places them at a higher risk of falling into debt (ACAPS discussions with operational actors, March 2020).

Migrants:

migrants from East Africa are often discriminated against in Yemen. They are often accused of carrying disease, committing criminal acts and being a threat to the local population. As there are routes to Saudi Arabia through Marib, they pass through and end up staying for some time in Marib governorate. As the conflict increased and borders have been closed due to COVID-19, there are over 4,500 migrants stranded mainly in Marib city. There is no data available on the numbers of migrants in other districts in Marib. However, reports indicate there are some stranded migrants in Rahabah and Al Jubah districts but there is no information on the location or situation of the migrants in the area (ACAPS discussions with operational actors, March 2020). As more IDPs arrive to Marib and surrounding areas, there is a risk of growing tension between migrant populations and other groups (ACAPS discussions with operational actors, March 2020).

Al Muhamasheen:

Are a minority ethnic group that often live in communities on the edge of larger cities, including Marib. They suffer from caste-based discrimination and fall outside established Yemeni tribal and societal structures. The conflict has forced many

Al Muhamasheen to flee their homes from areas with intense fighting. Their experience of displacement has been different to other Yemenis. Due to social prejudice, they are unlikely to find accommodation in public institutions and schools. As a result, they have had to reside in open farmland, parks, and other public spaces, and struggle to access basic services or other support mechanisms. Data on the number of Al Muhamasheen per each district is not available. Al Muhamasheen also do not have access to legal documentation and, because of this, struggle to access basic services including healthcare and education. This has further worsened their existing vulnerabilities. According to IOM, they are in need of food, shelter, education, and healthcare (ACAPS discussions with operational actors October2020; Yemen HNO 2019).

Majzar district

Majzar is a mountainous district in the northeast of Marib governorate that borders Al Hazm district in Al Jawf governorate. It consists of three sub districts Aal Hadhqayn, Al Ashraf and As Sahari. The estimated population of the district is 26,900 people, belonging to Al Jidan tribe.

Majzar was heavily impacted by the escalation of conflict in 2020, experiencing displacement and critical damage to vital infrastructure. Since January 2020, when conflicts escalated in Al Jawf and Sana'a governorates, clashes reached Majzar and the territory is now under Houthi control. The intensification of the fighting in Majzar district led to 33 airstrikes during 2020, the highest number in the governorate. As a result, two schools were destroyed, one demolished by explosives and another struck and damaged by airstrikes. Additionally, three hospitals and health facilities were impacted by shelling, including the Al Jafra Hospital. Roads and fuel infrastructure were also affected by airstrikes (CIMP 03/2020; CIMP 06/2020).

CRISIS IMPACT

Displacement:

The intense fighting since mid-January 2020 has caused massive displacement from Majzar. The district reported the highest displacement figures of all Marib districts in 2020. Displacement out of Majzar was particularly intense in January 2020 when around 11,200 people left the district as increased hostilities reached the area. As of December 2020, an

estimated 2,600 families (around 16,000 people) have fled the district to either Marib city, Marib Al Wadi or Madghal districts (Protection Cluster 04/10/2020,DTM core data set).

Majzar district has six IDP sites, four of them in urban settings in Al Ashraf sub district that hosted around 9,500 people as of May 2020. Information on the current situation of the IDP sites and the number of IDPs in them is scarce, due to the ongoing conflict and lack of access. Recent reports suggest that four IDP sites have been closed due to hostilities. No information regarding the situation of the IDPs is available as of 16 February 2021 (CCCM Reporting site accessed 10/12/2020; ACAPS discussion with operational actors, November 2020).

Shelter and living conditions:

The district hosts six IDP settlements. Two are in spontaneous settlements, the other four are collective settlements. All six of them were likely overcrowded before the beginning of 2020. As conflict escalated in the district and became a frontline, humanitarian access has been restricted and displaced populations are likely in urgent need of safe shelter (CCCM Reporting site accessed on 10/12/2020, ACAPS discussion with operational actors November 2020).

KEY INDICATORS	AAL HADHQAYN SUB-DISTRICT	AL ASHRAF SUB-DISTRICT
No of IDP sites	Two sites	Four sites
Name of location	Alkhaniq and Al Jafrah	Darb Alashraf, Hesn Aldamer, Mughifer and Malaha
Type of settlements	The two sites are spontaneous settlements (this type of settlements are usually established by the IDPs themselves or local initiatives. The IDPs intend to stay in this settlement for an extended period of time. On 26 January 2020 artillery shelling hit Al Khaniq IDP site. No casualties were reported. However, most of the 1,550 IDPs left to Madghal District or Marib City.	Darb Alashraf: spontaneous settlement. Hesn Aldamer, Mughifer and Malaha are collective settlements (a pre-existing physical structure – either a public/communal space in public buildings or schools, or private buildings where multiple households stay). The four displacement sites are on private land which puts them at risk of eviction.

Food security:

People depend on agriculture and livestock as their source of income. According to IPC projections in 2020, around 50% of the district is food insecure. An estimated 3,000 people (11% of the population) in the district are in Crisis level (IPC Phase 3) and 48% of the population (13,000 people) are facing Emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 4) (CCCM 04/2020; IPC 03/12/2020). Many people who fled reported losing their livestock and land which were their main source of livelihood.

WASH:

Access to safe drinking water is a critical problem. People in the district use wells for cooking and cleaning, but must buy drinking water from water trucks which has become unaffordable for many households. Three of the IDP sites use boreholes as their main water source and one depends on an unprotected well. Clean water has become the top priority need for the camps, and water contamination has posed a threat to the population living in the sites. The sanitation system in the district is poor for both IDPs living in displacement sites and the host community. People living in two of the displacement sites defecate in the open, exacerbating the spread of diseases (CARE Rapid Needs Assessment 01/2020; CCCM Reporting site accessed on 10/12/2020).

Health:

Two of the three hospitals available in the district have been affected by the conflict. Lack of available information makes it hard to report to what extent they remain operational. IDP sites lack healthcare services. Diarrhoea had become common among children, leading to the death of 13 children in a two-month period in 2019. There is no available data since the conflict escalated in the district and it became hard to access.

Education:

Two schools were destroyed in Majzar during 2020, restricting access to education for as many as 2,000 children, including IDPs (CIMP 03/2020; CIMP 06/2020; Sana'a Center 05/09/2020).

Protection:

Al-Khaniq camp in Majzar is a key example of the risk posed by proximity to active and dynamic frontlines. The site has been impacted by armed violence twice since the start of 2018. As hostilities escalated and the frontlines shifted, artillery shelling hit the site on 26 January 2020. Although no casualties were reported, around 1,550 families were forced to relocate to Madghal district or Marib city or Marib Al Wadi (CIMP 07/2020).

Humanitarian Access:

Ongoing hostilities have affected access to some of the most vulnerable communities near to conflict points. Humanitarian access remains restricted in some parts of the district, particularly affecting food assistance. For months Majzar has been cut off from Marib, accessible only from Sana'a governorate. Very few organisations have managed to access the area (IOM 01/12/2020; IOM 03/11/2020; ACAPS discussion with operation actors, December 2020).

Response Capacity:

the number of active organisations present in the district decreased during 2020. As of November 2020, there are only two national organisations present in the area providing protection services. These two organisations are Building Foundation for Development (BFD) and Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan Network (YHRPN) working on protection (OCHA 3w 10/2020; CCCM Reporting site accessed on 10/12/2020; ACAPS discussion with operation actors)

Madghal District

Madghal district is in the northeast of Marib governorate and borders Sirwah, Majzar and Raghwan districts. It consists of three sub district, Madghal Al Jidan, Al Jarf, and Al Zebrah sub district. Madghal district has an estimated population of 49,600 most of them belonging to the Al Jidan tribe.

CRISIS IMPACT

Displacement:

Since the beginning of the conflict in 2015, Madghal district has seen an increase in IDPs from districts surrounding Madghal. Since the beginning of the escalation of conflict in January 2020 around 5,200 people have been displaced to Madghal district. Madghal reported 19 airstrikes in 2020, the third highest number of all districts in the governorate. Since mid-August 2020 when increased hostilities reached the area, 1,300 families (around 8,000 people) fled the district. A lack of transportation left some stranded on the road towards Marib city and in the desert around Al Rayan sub-district (Protection Cluster 04/10/2020; CIMP 03/2020; CIMP 06/2020).

Madghal district has seven IDP sites. These were hosting around 5,000 people as of May 2020 (CCCM Reporting site accessed on 10/12/2020). The worsening security situation in Madghal, and the increased number of clashes since August 2020, left the district inaccessible for humanitarian responders. Information on the current situation of IDPs and their needs is scarce. Recent reports suggest that in May 2020 only one of the seven IDP sites remained open (ACAPS discussion with operation actors).

Shelter:

Of the seven IDP sites located within the district, two are in public buildings, two are made of makeshift shelters; typically built from waste and temporary materials (tarpaulins, cardboard, blankets, metal sheeting, tarps, etc) and one consists of emergency shelters a

portable shelter with a cover and a structure. Newly displaced people are in urgent need of safe shelter as existing sites are overcrowded (CCCM Reporting site accessed 10/12/2020, Reach June 2017).

KEY INDICATORS	MADGHAL AL JIDAN SUB-DISTRICT	AL JARF SUB DISTRICT	AL ZEBRAH SUB DISTRICT
No of IDP sites	Five sites	One site	One site
Name of location	Kamab kaelan, Nushayfa school, Al hazam, Nabat and Al somrah	Al Jarf	Al Zabrah
Type of settlements	Four sites are spontaneous settlements made of either tents/ plastic sheets/ metal or makeshifts shelters. They are located on private land, which puts them at risk of eviction. The fifth camp is located in a school called Nushayfa school. IDPs live in tents. They are at risk of eviction	It is a spontaneous settlement. IDPs live in makeshift shelters. It is on private land	It is a spontaneous settlement. IDPs live in makeshift shelters. It is on private land

Food security:

People in the district depend on agriculture and livestock. According to IPC projections for 2020, 17% of the population in the district (8,500 people) are facing food insecurity at a Crisis level (IPC Phase 3) and 5% of the population (2,500 people) are facing Emergency levels (IPC Phase 4) (CCCM 04/2020; IPC 03/12/2020).

WASH:

People in Madghal use water from wells for washing and cooking but have to buy drinking water. However, many IDPs cannot afford to buy drinking water. They depend on water trucks to come to their areas, usually every two or three weeks. In the rural areas of the district, time to fetch water from wells varies from one to two hours. Three sites use boreholes as their primary water source. One site relies on water trucks and another one on bottled water. Two IDP sites in the district have open defecation areas and four lack WASH and waste disposal services altogether (CCCM 04/2020; CARE Rapid Needs Assessment 01/2020).

Health:

Health infrastructure in the district is very poor. There are clinics, but critical cases or surgeries must be sent to Marib city. Only two IDP sites have healthcare services and they are inadequate (Sana'a Center 05/09/2020).

Protection:

Since August 2020 the escalation of conflict has led to an increase in protection concerns, with IDP sites threatened by evictions by the landowners in most of the districts (CCCM 04/2020). Most of the IDP sites are settled on private land and do not have a formal land agreement. As a result, security of tenure is precarious, and threats of eviction are a constant challenge (Protection Cluster 04/10/2020;CCCM Cluster 01/10/2020).

Humanitarian Access:

Madghal remained accessible for humanitarian actors until 2020. Since August 2020, the escalation of conflict has hindered humanitarian access, especially close to active conflict zones (IOM 01/12/2020; IOM 03/11/2020).

Response Capacity:

There are three organisations working within the district:

Local and national response capacity: Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS) working on shelter and the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan Network (YHRPN) focuses on protection

International response capacity: IOM currently works on site management in the district (OCHA 3w 10/2020; CCCM Reporting site accessed 10/12/2020; ACAPS discussion with operation actor

Sirwah district

Sirwah district is located in the western part of Marib governorate and borders Marib city, Madghal and Al Jubah districts and Sana'a governorate. It consists of three sub districts (Arak, Sirwah and Al Mahjazah). The district has an estimated population of 32,000 people, belonging to Al Jahm tribe. The Jahm tribe is a sub tribe of bani Jabr tribe, which is an Islamist ideology, based on the Zaidi Shia sect. Yemen's main oil pipeline travels through Jahm's territory in Marib to the Ras Isa oil terminal on the Red Sea (sanaacenter October 2020).

Sirwah district has had one of the most active frontlines in Marib since 2015 and was divided in control between the Houthis and the IRG. However the conflict increased on 9 February 2021,when Houthis announced a new offensive towards Marib city. Enabling them to advance

further in the district and take strategic locations such as Marib dam which is located to the south west of Marib city (ISNews 18/02/2021).

As of 18 February, the fighting is concentrated in Talat Al Hamara in Al Mahjazah sub district, east of Heylan mountain and in the southern road towards Marib city. Hundreds of IDPs living in IDP sites in Sirwah have been forced to flee either within Sirwah district or eastward to Marib city and Marib Al Wadi (ISNews 18/02/2021).

The ongoing conflict in the district since 2015 has impacted on people's life causing multiple displacement, destroying civilian houses and affecting local infrastructure. The district power plant and electricity network suffered severe damages in 2019. Sirwah district reported 27 airstrikes during 2020, the second highest number in the governorate (CIMP 03/2020; CIMP 06/2020, Deep root April 2019).

Al though ongoing conflict is the main reason for displacement and impacting people's life and constraining access to services. Flash floods and sand storm in 2020 has had a major impact. Between July and August 2020, flash floods and sandstorm damaged 2,000 IDP shelters and displaced 1,000 people.

CRISIS IMPACT

Displacement:

Since the conflict intensified on 9 February 2021, Sirwah district have been the most affected over 1,000 households (6000 individuals) have been confirmed as displaced from or within the district. The numbers are likely higher. People are fleeing areas where hostilities have increased – particularly Dhanah Al Hayal, Al-Sawabin and Al Zour in Arak sub district which host eight displacement sites – moving mainly to Al Rawdah in Sirwah 676 households (4,056 individuals) and some to Marib city 214 households (1,284 individuals) as well as Marib Al Wadi 39 households (234individuals). Members of the surrounding host community in those areas have also become displaced (IOM 17/02/2021)

Throughout 2020 when the conflict increased on the outskirts of Majzar, Madghal, Mahalyah, and Rahabah districts, Sirwah has received around 2,800 internally displaced people. The largest IDP influxes came in July and August 2020 from areas within Sirwah district due to the flooding and in October 2020 from Madghal district due to increased violence

In late July and early August 2020, continuous heavy rain caused severe flooding in Marib, heavily impacting Sirwah and IDP displacement sites in the district. Many displaced people lost shelters, food supplies and non food items (NFI). Humanitarian organisations provided food, NFI and shelter (IOM 28/09/2020).

Shelter:

There are 12 IDP sites within Sirwah district hosting around 15,000 people as of 31 January 2021. These are located in Al Rawdah, Al Sawbeen and Al Zour sites in Arak sub district (IOM 28/09/2020).

Due to intense fighting which started in 9 February, four sites in Al Mustashfa, Dhanah Al Hayal, Al Sawabin and Al Zour have been almost emptied, as internally displaced persons (IDPs) sought safety further east, following at least three of those sites having been directly impacted by the fighting (IOM 17/02/2021).

More information about nine sites are available in the below table. There are no available information about the location of the remaining three sites.

KEY INDICATORS	ARAK	AL MAHJAZAH SUB DISTRICT
No of IDP sites	Eight sites	One site
Name of location	Al Mil, Edat Alrra, Dhanah Al Hayal, Almustashfa, Arak, Al Zour, Al Sawbeen and Al Rawdah	Lafj Almalah
Type of settlements	All the sites are spontaneous settlements on private land, except for Al Mil site that is located on public land. In Al Mil and Edat Alrra, IDPs live in tents/ metal shelters. In Dhanah Al Hayal and Mustafa sites IDPs live in emergency shelters. In Al Arak IDPs live in makeshift shelters. In Al Zour, Al Sawabina and Al Rawda, IDPs live in shelters made of tents/ plastic sheets/Adobe/ Bricks	It is a spontaneous settlement. IDPs live in emergency shelters on private land

Food security:

Agriculture, livestock, trade, and government jobs are the main sources of income in the district. Since the conflict started in Yemen in 2015, many displaced people have joined the frontlines as a source of income. Around 6% of IDPs in the area report at least one member of their family having joined the frontlines (DeepRoot 04/2019). There is an urgent need for food among the internally displaced population as reports suggest that food assistance is irregular and inadequate in 8 out of the 9 IDP sites (CCCM Reporting site accessed on 10/12/2020). Food insecurity remains a concern. According to IPC projections in 2020, 75%

of the population faces high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above). This includes around 16,000 people in Crisis level (IPC Phase 3) and 8,000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) (IPC 03/12/2020).

WASH:

Within Marib city, Marib Al Wadi, and Sirwah districts approximately 10,000 IDP households (60,000 people) need sanitation services. During the year, 26 emergency latrines for 215 households were constructed in the district (IOM 22/05/2020). However, people still resort to open defecation in the IDP displacement sites (CCCM Reporting site accessed on 10/12/2020).

Health:

The two main hospitals that provided health assistance in the area were destroyed due to conflict. Two remaining health units offer basic health services. Additionally, IOM deployed a mobile health clinic to Sirwah to provide health services in displacement sites affected by storms in July and August 2020. Services include consultation, primary healthcare, medicines, referral to further care, and information on COVID-19. However, there was a spike in the number of reported cholera cases in the district after the floods in July and August 2020 (IOM 19/08/2020; DeepRoot 04/2019).

Education:

The majority of displaced people in Sirwah district are concentrated in Al Rawdah, Al-Sawabeen, and Al-Zour in the Arak sub-district. The displacement camp in Al-Rawdah has three rooms used as a school. This school accommodates 50-60 students, and they use two shifts in order to provide education for all displaced students. In Al-Sawabeen area, displaced students have six educational tents with no toilet facilities. With the daily inflow of IDPs to the district, local authorities face numerous challenges in providing education for IDPs. The schools lack basic supplies, such as books and equipment, as well as teachers (DeepRoot 04/2019).

Protection:

Eviction concerns: in Sirwah the displaced population often face threats of eviction, which exposes them to secondary displacement or harassment and loss of livelihoods. In 2020, conflict and flash floods were the main reasons for eviction. Dhana Al Hayal and Al Sawabeen IDPs sites were affected by the overflow of Marib dam in August 2020. IDPs had to relocate to higher ground in the same area. The Nabat Serwah site was evacuated in response to nearby clashes in September 2020 with many IDPs relocated to safer area in Al Rawda (IOM Sep 2020).

Humanitarian Access:

Lack of humanitarian access due to logistical issues and bureaucratic procedures, active conflict, and flash floods remain a critical challenge hindering the delivery of lifesaving protection services and other assistance in the area (Protection Cluster 04/10/2020; OCHA 29/04/2019).

Response Capacity:

After Marib and Marib city districts, Sirwah has the highest number of active organisations in the governorate. There are six organisations in the district:

Local and national response capacity: Building Foundation for Development (BFD) working on camp management, response, education, and health; the Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS) working on shelter; the Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) working on WASH, education, and protection; the Social Research and Development Centre (SCDR) focused on WASH and education; and Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan Network (YHRPN) focused on protection

International response capacity: IOM working on WASH and health (OCHA 3w 10/2020; CCCM Reporting site accessed 10/12/2020).

Raghwān district

Raghwān district is located in the west of Marib governorate, bordering Majzar and Madghal districts and Al Jawf governorate. It consists of two sub district Raghwān and Asdas sub district. The district has an estimated population of 32,000 people belonging to Al Jid'an tribe.

CRISIS IMPACT

Since the conflict escalated in January 2020, hostilities continue to intensify across the governorate. In July 2020, the Houthis advanced towards Madghal and new frontlines were established in Raghwān. This pushed IDPs to move towards Marib city and Marib Al Wadi (IOM 20/11/2020).

Displacement:

Raghwān received the third-highest number of IDPs during 2020. Around 6,500 people were displaced to Raghwān in 2020. However, since August 2020, when new frontlines opened in the district, there has been a spike in the number of people leaving the area. Between August

and October 2020 around 2,900 people left the district to neighbouring areas like Marib city and Marib Al Wadi (DTM core data set).

Shelter:

Raghwān district has three open IDP sites. As of May 2020, there is no available information of how many people the sites host. Two of them are in public buildings, the third consists of makeshift shelters (CCCM Reporting site accessed 10/12/2020).

KEY INDICATORS	ASDAS SUB DISTRICT
No of IDPsites	Three sites
Name of location	Almojamaa (local administration), Kherbat Alzaba, and Edarat Alamn (Security administration)
Type of settlements	Edarat Alamn (Security administration) and Almojamaa (local administration) are collective sites located in private buildings Kherbat Alzaba is a spontaneous settlement. IDPs live in makeshift shelters

Food security:

According to IPC projections in 2020, 8% of the district face food insecurity at Crisis level (IPC Phase 3) and 15% face Emergency levels (IPC Phase 4) (IPC 03/12/2020).

WASH:

People in Raghwān use water from the well for their daily use. The time to fetch water from wells varies between one to three hours and they use water from the wells only for washing and cooking. They have to wait for water trucks to come to their area to get drinking water. While they wait for water trucks they drink from the wells by boiling the water. Water trucks usually only come every two or three weeks. People living in displacement sites defecate in the open, exacerbating the spread of diseases and water contamination. Sanitation services are regularly mentioned as top priority within the camps (CCCM Reporting site accessed 10/12/2020).

Health:

It is not clear to what extent health facilities are operational and able to meet the needs of the population. The demand for healthcare likely outstrips capacity.

Education:

Although two of the IDP sites have adequate education services provided by local authorities, there are still gaps as the flow of IDPs into the district continues on a daily basis (CCCM Reporting site accessed 10/12/2020).

Protection:

Displaced people reported losing their legal documentation and many are facing difficulties getting new ones.

Humanitarian Access:

Ongoing clashes and conflict hindered humanitarian access. The establishment of new frontlines in the district has severely affected the ability of humanitarian organisations to access the district (OCHA 18/02/2020).

Response Capacity:

Five organisations are active in the district.

Local and national response capacity: Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) working on WASH and health; the Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS) focused on shelter.

International response capacity: IOM working on RRM and WASH; CARE and UNICEF working through local organisations (OCHA 3w 10/2020; CCCM Reporting site accessed on 10/12/2020).

Rahabah district

Rahabah district is located to the south of Marib city, bordering Jabal Murad district and Sana'a governorate. The district consists of five sub districts: Aal Bushah; Aal Ham; Aal Jamil; Al Qaradiah, and; Rahabah. The district has an estimated population of 14,592 people belonging to the Murad tribe. People in the Murad tribe belongs to the Sunni Islamic sector that generally puts them at odds with Houthis, which subscribes to an Islamist ideology based on Zaidi Shia Islam. In particular, the Murad have a complex historical relationship with Yemen's Zaidis, when Imam Ali bin Abi Talib (the symbolic father of all Shia sects in the Islamic world) was assassinated by Abd al-Rahman ibn Muljam, a member of the Murad tribe, in 661. More recently, Yahya Mohammed Hamid ed-Dine, the Zaidi imam of the Mutawakkilite Kingdom of Yemen, was killed in 1948 by Ali bin Nasser Al-Qardaei Al-Muradi, a prominent sheikh of the Murad tribe (sanaacenter October 2020)

Rahabah has never been a district with major humanitarian interventions as it is a small district with a small population. Information on the situation there is very limited.

CRISIS IMPACT

Rahabah district saw an increase in hostilities between July and October 2020, with heavy fighting in September impacting civilian areas in the district. The district reported several airstrikes, causing at least two civilian casualties (CIMP 09/2020).

Displacement:

There was no population displaced out of Rahabah for the first eight months of 2020. However, following the escalation of hostilities in July 2020 in Al Mahliyah district, fighting then spread through Rahabah. There was an increase in the number of people leaving the district in search of safer areas between September and October, when 3,500 people were displaced from the district to Marib city or Marib Al Wadi due to the ongoing hostilities.

Shelter:

There is one emergency shelter for IDPs within the district that, as of May 2020, hosted around 100 people. There is little information regarding the additional number of people that could be in need of shelter or the needs of those sheltered with host communities (CCCM Reporting site accessed on 10/12/2020).

KEY INDICATORS	A HAM SUB DISTRICT
No of IDP sites	One site
Name of location	Wadi Zabib
Type of settlements	The settlement is spontaneous on a private land. IDPs live in tents/plastic sheets/bricks

Food insecurity:

According to IPC projections in 2020, 34% of the population are food insecure at Crisis level (IPC Phase 3) and 10% face Emergency level (IPC Phase 4) (IPC 03/12/2020).

WASH:

People living in the IDP site defecate in the open due to lack of latrines and sewage systems, raising the risk of the spread of disease. Water contamination problems have been reported with many children suffering from diseases like acute watery diarrhoea (CCCM Reporting site accessed on 10/12/2020).

Humanitarian Access:

The escalation of conflict within Al-Rahbah district has affected humanitarian access, and responders are unable to safely access some areas of the district.

Response Capacity: one active organisation is present in Al-Rahbah district.

Local and national response capacity: Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) working on protection

Al Jubah district

Al-Jubah district is located to the south of Marib governorate, bordering Marib Al-Wadi, Jabal Murad and Harib districts and Sana'a governorate. It consists of five sub districts: Al Jadidah; Al Jarashah; Jabal As Sahl; Naja, and; Yarah. The district has an estimated population of 39,000 people belonging to the Murad tribe.

Before the escalation of conflict in 2020, the security situation was largely stable, attributed mainly to the strong tribal structures in the area. The district has reported highway robberies (particularly on the road to Sana'a), but the situation improved in recent years. The district also saw tribal disputes and disagreements over humanitarian assistance allocations (Social Development Direct June 2018). The security situation started to deteriorate in July 2020 when fighting escalated in Mahliyah, Al Rahabah and Jabal Murad, where some 800 people were displaced from Al Jubah in September 2020 to either Marib city or Marib Al Wadi.

CRISIS IMPACT

Displacement:

Al Jubah hosts the fifth highest number of IDPs of any district in the governorate. New IDP sites are planned. Around 3,000 people were displaced to Al-Jubah governorate in 2020. Between August and October 2020 around 800 people left the district due to increased fighting in bordering districts.

Shelter:

Most IDPs in the district live with host families or in isolated or dispersed settlements. There is one IDP site, but no information can be found regarding the location, the number of people it hosts or their needs.

Food security:

According to IPC projections in 2020, around 18% of the population are facing food insecurity at Crisis level (IPC Phase 3) and 4% face Emergency level (IPC Phase 4) (IPC 03/12/2020).

Health:

The district reports one of the higher numbers of cholera compared to other districts in Marib. IOM is consulting with authorities on the possibility of establishing an isolation centre in the district.

Response Capacity:

The district has three active humanitarian organisations whose access is currently not impeded.

Local and national response capacity: Building Foundation for Development (BFD) working on RRM; the Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) working on WASH and protection and Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan Network (YHRPN) focused on protection (OCHA 3w 10/2020; CCCM Reporting site accessed on 10/12/2020).

Outlook:

If conflict intensifies in Sirwah towards Marib city, people will be forced to flee to Marib Al Wadi and Hadramawt. Due to historic tensions dating back to the 1994 civil war and strong tribal identities, most people from Marib are unlikely to be welcomed into Shabwa. A worst-case scenario would see between 75,000–150,000 households displaced towards Marib Al Wadi and into Hadramaut – a governorate with a vast desert and extremely limited humanitarian services. This would require a large-scale humanitarian response with many challenges. Marib needs an increased humanitarian presence to respond to the displacement crisis, as most actors currently working in the area are national NGOs with limited human and financial resources.

Should the Houthis assume full hold of the governorate, they will secure control of the country's main gas and oil supply as well as key trade routes. It is possible that such a strong display of Houthi force prompts peace negotiations with the Saudis to seek a negotiated settlement to end the conflict. The advance on Marib city potentially marks a crossroads in the trajectory of the Yemen conflict. If the opportunity to reach an agreement is missed at a time where the balance of power has shifted in favour of the Houthi, there is a high risk of Houthi forces advancing into other parts of country including into southern governorates (ICG 17 March 2020; Washington Post, 25 February 2020;).

INFORMATION GAPS AND NEEDS

Ongoing hostilities have limited access to Majzar, Sirwah and Madghal. Little information is available about the current situation.

It is unclear what proportion of Marib's large IDP population (800,000 people) would choose to remain in the governorate if the Houthis launch an all out offensive on Marib city, or how many would choose to flee again into Hadramawt.

Information regarding the needs of IDPs living with host communities is scarce.

It is difficult to assess the severity of needs across different locations hosting IDPs.

There is limited information available regarding the way in which the conflict is impacting access to and availability of education services.

Health facilities have been damaged during the conflict. It is not clear to what extent health facilities are operational and able to meet the needs of the population.

There is limited information on the specific needs of vulnerable groups. The available displacement data has not been disaggregated.

There is limited information on protection issues, including information on incidents of SGBV, child recruitment, or other forms of abuse and exploitation.

Assessment and information concerning protection issues and vulnerable groups are scarce.

Estimates of the numbers of IDPs in the districts vary greatly depending on who is providing the information and when the estimate was made. This highlights the continually changing situation.

There is little information available for Rahabah and Al Jubah district, especially in education, WASH, health and protection.